

EUONYMUS SCAB

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*Euonymus* (*Euonymus* sp.) is a popular evergreen with glossy oval gray-green to green leaves, often with white to yellow marginal variegation (3). Some species are grown as ornamental shrubs, and others as woody vines (1). Although several species are native to the United States (1), the majority of the species used in landscape plantings have been introduced from China, Japan, or Korea (3).

Although scab, caused by the fungus *Sphaceloma euonymi-japonici* Kurosana and Katsuki, is a common and serious disease on this host, little mention is made of it in the literature. The imperfect or conidial stage of the fungus was described in Japan in 1956 (5), whereas the perfect or sexual stage, *Elsinoe euonymi-japonici* Jenkins and Bitancourt, was described in the United States in 1957(4) from Florida specimens supplied by Division of Plant Industry Plant Specialist C. R. Roberts.

**SYMPTOMS:** The fungus attacks leaves and stems of *Euonymus*. Very small circular spots develop on both leaf surfaces. They gradually enlarge to 1-3 mm in diameter (fig. 1). The spots are sunken at the center and slightly raised at the margin. Spots often coalesce, forming larger irregularly shaped lesions with a raised reddish brown border. On stems, lesions are similar to those on leaves, but are often darker in color and more likely to coalesce (5).

**CONTROL:** Although specific control recommendations for this disease are lacking, scab caused by *Sphaceloma* or *Elsinoe* on other ornamental hosts such as violet and poinsettia (2), oleander and dogwood (6) has been successfully controlled with a combination of roguing and regular applications of a fungicide such as zineb, Bravo, or Dithane M-45.

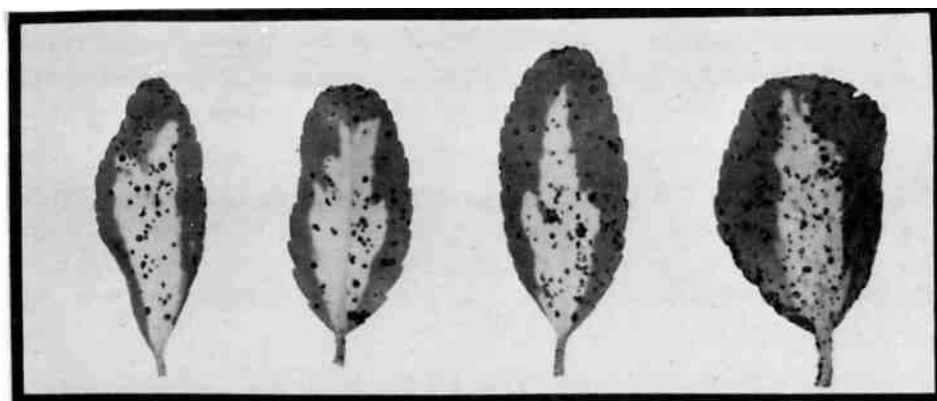


Fig. 1. Infected *Euonymus* leaves showing the typical small circular spots of *Euonymus* Scab.

Literature Cited

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